

Similar estimates of temperature impacts on global wheat yield by three independent methods

Liu, Bing; Asseng, Senthold; Müller, Christoph; Ewert, Frank; Elliot, Joshua; Lobell, David; Martre, Pierre; Ruane, Alex; Wallach, Daniel; Jones, James; Rosenzweig, Cynthia; Aggarwal, Pramod; Alderman, Phillip; Anothai, Jakarat; Basso, Bruno; Biernath, Christian; Cammarano, Davide; Challinor, Andy; Deryng, Delphine; De Sanctis, Giacomo

DOI:
[10.1038/NCLIMATE3115](https://doi.org/10.1038/NCLIMATE3115)

License:
None: All rights reserved

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Liu, B, Asseng, S, Müller, C, Ewert, F, Elliot, J, Lobell, D, Martre, P, Ruane, A, Wallach, D, Jones, J, Rosenzweig, C, Aggarwal, P, Alderman, P, Anothai, J, Basso, B, Biernath, C, Cammarano, D, Challinor, A, Deryng, D, De Sanctis, G, Doltra, J, Fereres, E, Folberth, C, Garcia-Vila, M, Gayler, S, Hoogenboom, G, Hunt, L, Izaurrealde, R, Jabloun, M, Jones, C, Kersebaum, K, Kimball, B, Koehler, A-K, Naresh Kumar, S, Nendel, C, O'Leary, G, Olesen, J, Ottman, M, Palosuo, T, Prasad, PVV, Priesack, E, Pugh, T, Reynolds, M, Rezaei, E, Rötter, R, Schmid, E, Semenov, M, Shcherbak, I, Stehfest, E, Stöckle, C, Stratonovitch, P, Streck, T, Supit, I, Tao, F, Thorburn, P, Waha, K, Wall, G, Wang, E, White, J, Wolf, J, Zhao, Z & Zhu, Y 2016, 'Similar estimates of temperature impacts on global wheat yield by three independent methods', *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 6, pp. 1130–1136. <https://doi.org/10.1038/NCLIMATE3115>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

Download date: 17. Apr. 2024

1
2 **Title: Similar estimates of temperature impacts on global wheat yield by three**
3 **independent methods**

4
5 **Author:** Bing Liu^{a,b}, Senthold Asseng^b, Christoph Müller^c, Frank Ewert^d, Joshua Elliott^{e,f},
6 David B. Lobell^g, Pierre Martre^{h,i}, Alex C. Ruane^{e,j}, Daniel Wallach^k, James W. Jones^b,
7 Cynthia Rosenzweig^{e,j,t}, Pramod K. Aggarwal^l, Phillip D. Alderman^m, Jakarat Anothaiⁿ,
8 Bruno Basso^{o,p}, Christian Biernath^q, Davide Cammarano^r, Andy Challinor^{s,t}, Delphine
9 Deryng^{e,f}, Giacomo De Sanctis^u, Jordi Doltra^v, Elias Fereres^w, Christian Folberth^x, Margarita
10 Garcia-Vila^w, Sebastian Gayler^y, Gerrit Hoogenboom^z, Leslie A. Hunt^{aa}, Roberto C.
11 Izaurralde^{bb,cc}, Mohamed Jabloun^{dd}, Curtis D. Jones^{bb}, Kurt C. Kersebaum^{ee}, Bruce A.
12 Kimball^{ff}, Ann-Kristin Koehler^s, Soora Naresh Kumar^{gg}, Claas Nendel^{ee}, Gary O'Leary^{hh},
13 Jørgen E. Olesen^{dd}, Michael J. Ottmanⁱⁱ, Taru Palosuo^{jj}, P.V. Vara Prasad^{kk}, Eckart Priesack^q,
14 Thomas A. M. Pugh^{ll,vv}, Matthew Reynolds^m, Ehsan E. Rezaei^d, Reimund P. Rötter^{ij}, Erwin
15 Schmid^{mmm}, Mikhail A. Semenovⁿⁿ, Iurii Shcherbak^{o,p}, Elke Stehfest^{oo}, Claudio O. Stöckle^{pp},
16 Pierre Stratonovitchⁿⁿ, Thilo Streck^y, Iwan Supit^{qq}, Fulu Tao^{rr,ij}, Peter Thorburn^{ss}, Katharina
17 Waha^c, Gerard W. Wall^{ff}, Enli Wang^{tt}, Jeff W. White^{ff}, Joost Wolf^{qq}, Zhigan Zhao^{uu,tt}, and
18 Yan Zhu^{a,*}

19
20 **Author affiliation:**

21 ^a National Engineering and Technology Center for Information Agriculture, Jiangsu
22 Key Laboratory for Information Agriculture, Jiangsu Collaborative Innovation Center
23 for Modern Crop Production, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing, Jiangsu
24 210095, China

25 ^b Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department, University of Florida,
26 Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

27 ^c Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, 14473 Potsdam, Germany

28 ^d Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation INRES, University of Bonn,
29 53115, Germany

30 ^e Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research, New York, NY 10025,
31 USA

32 ^f University of Chicago Computation Institute, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

33 ^g Department of Environmental Earth System Science and Center on Food Security
34 and the Environment, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

35 ^h INRA, UMR759 Laboratoire d'Ecophysiologie des Plantes sous Stress
36 Environnementaux, F-34 060 Montpellier, France

37 ⁱ Montpellier SupAgro, UMR759 Laboratoire d'Ecophysiologie des Plantes sous
38 Stress Environnementaux, F-34 060 Montpellier, France

39 ^j National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Institute for Space Studies,
40 New York, NY 10025, USA

41 ^k INRA, UMR1248 Agrosystèmes et développement territorial (AGIR), 31326
42 Castanet-Tolosan Cedex, France

43 ^l CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security,
44 Borlaug Institute for South Asia. CIMMYT, New Delhi-110012, India

45 ^m CIMMYT Int. Adpo, D.F. Mexico 06600, Mexico
46 ⁿ Department of Plant Science, Faculty of Natural Resources, Prince of Songkla
47 University, Songkhla 90112, Thailand
48 ^o Department of Geological Sciences, Michigan State University East Lansing,
49 Michigan 48823, USA
50 ^p W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan
51 48823, USA
52 ^q Institute of Biochemical Plant Pathology, Helmholtz Zentrum München – German
53 Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, D-85764, Germany
54 ^r The James Hutton Institute Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA, Scotland, UK
55 ^s Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science, School of Earth and Environment,
56 University of Leeds, Leeds LS29JT, UK
57 ^t CGIAR-ESSP Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security,
58 International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), A.A. 6713, Cali, Colombia.
59 ^u European Commission, Joint Research Centre, via Enrico Fermi, 2749 Ispra, 21027,
60 Italy
61 ^v Cantabrian Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CIFA), 39600 Muriedas,
62 Spain
63 ^w Dep. Agronomia, University of Cordoba, Apartado 3048, 14080 Cordoba, Spain
64 ^x Department of Geography, University of Munich, Germany
65 ^y Institute of Soil Science and Land Evaluation, University of Hohenheim, 70599
66 Stuttgart, Germany
67 ^z AgWeatherNet Program, Washington State University, Prosser, Washington 99350,
68 USA
69 ^{aa} Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1,
70 Canada
71 ^{bb} Dept. of Geographical Sciences, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA
72 ^{cc} Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Texas A&M Univ., Temple,
73 TX 76502, USA
74 ^{dd} Department of Agroecology, Aarhus University, 8830 Tjele, Denmark
75 ^{ee} Institute of Landscape Systems Analysis, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural
76 Landscape Research, 15374 Müncheberg, Germany
77 ^{ff} USDA, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Arid-Land Agricultural Research
78 Center, Maricopa, AZ 85138, USA
79 ^{gg} Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture, Indian
80 Agricultural Research Institute, IARI PUSA, New Delhi 110 012, India
81 ^{hh} Landscape & Water Sciences, Department of Environment and Primary Industries,
82 Horsham 3400, Australia
83 ⁱⁱ The School of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA

84 ^{jj} Environmental Impacts Group, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke),
85 FI-03170 Vantaa, Finland.
86 ^{kk} Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, USA
87 ^{ll} Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research, Atmospheric Environmental
88 Research, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen,
89 Germany
90 ^{mmm} University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, 1180 Vienna, Austria
91 ⁿⁿ Computational and Systems Biology Department, Rothamsted Research,
92 Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2JQ, UK
93 ^{oo} PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, 3720 AH, Bilthoven, The
94 Netherlands
95 ^{pp} Department of Biological Systems Engineering, Washington State University,
96 Pullman, Washington 99164, USA
97 ^{qq} Plant Production Systems & Earth System Science, Wageningen University,
98 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands
99 ^{rr} Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese
100 Academy of Science, Beijing 100101, China
101 ^{ss} CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, Dutton Park QLD 4102, Australia
102 ^{tt} CSIRO Agriculture, Black Mountain ACT 2601, Australia
103 ^{uu} Department of Agronomy and Biotechnology, China Agricultural University,
104 Yuanmingyuan West Road 2, Beijing 100193, China.
105 ^{vv} School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Science and Birmingham Institute of
106 Forest Research, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK.
107 [†] Authors after C. Rosenzweig are listed in alphabetical order.
108

109 **Keywords:**

110 Global warming, wheat yield, climate impacts, impact method comparison, food security,
111 temperature

112

113 **Abstract**

114 The potential impact of global temperature change on global crop yield has recently been
115 assessed with different methods. Here we show that grid-based and point-based simulations
116 and statistical regressions (from historic records), without deliberate adaptation or CO₂
117 fertilization effects, produce similar estimates of temperature impact on wheat yields at global
118 and national scales. With a 1 °C global temperature increase, global wheat yield is projected
119 to decline between 4.1% and 6.4%. Projected relative temperature impacts from different
120 methods were similar for major wheat producing countries China, India, USA and France, but
121 less so for Russia. Point-based and grid-based simulations, and to some extent the statistical
122 regressions, were consistent in projecting that warmer regions are likely to suffer more yield
123 loss with increasing temperature than cooler regions. By forming a multi-method ensemble, it
124 was possible to quantify 'method uncertainty' in addition to model uncertainty. This
125 significantly improves confidence in estimates of climate impacts on global food security.

126 Global demand for food is expected to increase 60% by the middle of the 21st century ¹.
127 Climate change, and in particular rising temperatures, will impact food production ². For
128 global food security, it is important to understand how climate change will impact crop
129 production at the global scale to develop fact-based mitigation and adaptation strategies.
130 Many studies have shown a wide range of temperature impacts on yields of different crops in
131 different seasons at different locations ³, including Europe ⁴, China ⁵, India ⁶ and Sub-Saharan
132 Africa ⁷. A few studies have considered impacts on the entire globe^{8,9,10,11}. However, the
133 methods used to make these assessments are based on very different premises and use
134 different methodological steps.

135 The uncertainty of estimates of global temperature impact on crop yields was analyzed
136 for the crop model component (i.e. model uncertainty) by using two different multi-model
137 ensemble approaches ^{8,9}. While both studies used process-based crop simulation models, the
138 scaling approach and input data differed greatly. The first study divided the globe into a
139 geographical grid cells defined by latitude and longitude and used climate and crop
140 management data integrated over each grid as input for seven crop models ⁹. This grid-based
141 system was used to estimate relative yield changes for rice, maize, wheat and soybean. The
142 second study used data from 30 individual field sites deemed to represent 2/3 of
143 wheat-producing areas worldwide ⁸. In this point-based approach estimates from sentinel sites
144 were scaled up and extrapolated to cover geographical areas with similar conditions.

145 In further contrast, statistical regressions based on global and country level data have
146 been used to quantify the impact of increasing temperatures on yields of wheat, maize, barley,
147 soybean, sorghum and rice ^{10,11}. An important difference from the simulation models is that

148 statistical models do not directly consider processes inherent to crop growth. However,
149 statistical models may include indirect effects of climatic variability, such as those related to
150 pests and diseases, which are not well captured by simulation models ¹². When assessing
151 climate effects on crop yields, crop models can take into account autonomous adaptation and
152 an increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration. Also some statistical regressions include the
153 yield effects associated with autonomous adaptation ¹⁰. For the effects of gradual increase in
154 CO₂ concentration in the past, statistical models may inherently include these within yield
155 effects ¹³, but for some regression models with a linear time term, effects of steady increase in
156 CO₂ can be removed from yield impacts, just as the effects of technology improvement. In
157 addition, upscaling methods influence the outcomes from regional assessments ¹⁴. The
158 statistical approach obtained global or regional impacts by aggregating county districts or
159 countries ^{10, 11}. The grid-based system obtained global or regional impacts by aggregating 0.5°
160 × 0.5° grid cells ⁹, while the point-based approach employed 30 sites to represent global wheat
161 regions ⁸. Therefore, differences in upscaling could add uncertainties in the impact estimated
162 in these studies.

163 In this letter, we compared three largely independent assessment methods used to
164 estimate temperature impacts on wheat yields: grid-based simulations, point-based
165 simulations, and statistical regressions. The details of each method are shown in Table S1.
166 The methods used independent different dynamic, statistical, up-scaling and source data
167 approaches. The grid-based simulations used here were from the Agricultural Model
168 Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP) ¹⁵ as part of the Inter-Sectoral Impact
169 Model Intercomparison Project (ISI-MIP). Wheat yields were simulated with seven global

170 gridded crop models during 1980-2099 under RCP 8.5, a greenhouse gas emissions scenario
171 (here without CO₂ fertilization effects), over 0.5° × 0.5° grid cells⁹. The point-based
172 simulations from the AgMIP-Wheat project⁸ consisted of simulations from 30 wheat models
173 (including one statistical model) for 30 representative locations around the world from a
174 baseline of the 1981-2010 period and a linear temperature increase. Temperature impacts
175 determined by statistical regression methods were obtained directly from previously
176 published data or our own statistical analysis (Table S1 and Supplementary methods).

177 **Similar global impact from different methods**

178 The average reductions in global wheat yield with 1°C global temperature increase
179 estimated from grid-based simulations, point-based simulations, and statistical regressions at
180 global level were all between 4.1% and 6.4% (Fig. 1). The average estimated temperature
181 impact from all three methods (and four studies) was a 5.7% reduction in global yield per
182 degree of global temperature increase. The estimated temperature effects on global wheat
183 yield from the three different methods were similar.

184 A meta-analysis of mostly process-based crop model simulations, reported a $3.3 \pm 0.8\%$
185 decline in wheat yields with a 1°C increase in local temperature¹⁶. When adjusted to global
186 temperature change (which is usually less than local wheat region temperature changes¹⁷),
187 this impact amounts to respectively 3.9% yield reduction per degree of global temperature
188 increase. Also, a summary of past regression and simulation studies reported an average of
189 5.9% wheat yield decrease with 1°C warming¹⁸. These values are very similar to the results
190 obtained here for wheat using three different assessment methods.

191 The results here are presented for 1°C of global warming for consistency. However, the

192 estimated impacts do not increase linearly with increasing temperature and the disagreement
193 among method estimates become larger with more temperature change (Fig. S9).

194 **Impacts for major wheat-producing countries**

195 To understand how the different methods project such similar temperature impacts on
196 global wheat yields, we disaggregated the temperature impacts to the national scale.
197 Point-based and grid-based simulations were compared for 97 countries (Fig. 2a). Generally,
198 projected temperature impacts on wheat yields for most of the large wheat producers were
199 similar between the two simulation methods (with a R^2 of 0.64 for the top 20 producers,
200 Fig.S12), while differences were larger for small wheat-producing countries. Some large
201 differences occurred between point-based and grid-based simulation in irrigated semiarid
202 regions of Africa, which are mostly small wheat producers. The larger differences observed
203 for smaller producers have little weight in the global analysis. However, they are important
204 for regional economies. Method results were compared in more detail for the top five wheat
205 producing countries (Fig. 2b, Fig. 3). For China, India, USA, and France, the different
206 assessment methods resulted in similar values for temperature impacts on country wheat
207 yields. Additional country-level studies relying on other methods and data sources gave
208 similar estimates. For example, for China point-based simulations, grid-based simulations,
209 and two different regressions all concluded that yield reductions of about 3.0% are expected
210 with 1°C warming (Fig.3a). For India, country-level statistical regressions, grid-based and
211 point-based simulations all estimated about 8.0% yield declines per °C of global temperature
212 increase (Fig.3b). For Russia, the two simulation methods agreed well, but yield reductions
213 estimated from statistical regression were markedly higher (Fig. 3c). Another study using

214 statistical regression methods also showed higher negative temperature impacts on wheat
215 yield than the two modeling methods used here for Rostov, a main wheat producing region in
216 Russia¹⁹. Since wheat producing regions in Russia can experience relatively low
217 temperatures (below optimal growth temperature) during early growing stages, a temperature
218 increase during this stage (tillering), may have a positive yield impact, while at a later stage
219 (booting or grain filling) an increase in temperature often reduces wheat yields¹⁹. As an
220 average temperature over a growing season is usually used in statistical regressions, such
221 in-season variability in temperature impacts would remain undetected. A dynamic crop
222 simulation model takes in-season variability and impacts into account. This may explain the
223 estimated larger impacts in Regression_A in comparison to the simulation results. For USA, a
224 recent study using data from wheat variety trials from 1985–2013 in Kansas, USA reported a
225 7.3% decrease (corrected for global temperature change) in wheat yield with 1°C global
226 temperature increase²⁰. This result is similar to the other estimated temperature impacts on
227 wheat yields for the USA (Fig. 3d). For France, yield reduction estimates from grid-based
228 simulations, point-based simulations, and statistical regressions were 4.6%, 5.2%, and 4.2%,
229 respectively (Fig. 3e). In an independent study, a 0.42t.ha⁻¹ reduction in wheat yields, which is
230 a reduction of about 5.5% after correction for global temperature change, was reported in
231 Northern France from 1998-2008 that included the planting of reference varieties in field
232 experiments²¹. This is also in line with simulated impact response surfaces from a
233 26-wheat-model-ensemble across a European transect²².

234 With the different temperature impact methods used, despite some variation, there is a
235 general similarity in the magnitude of negative effects of increasing temperature on wheat

236 yields for major wheat producing countries. As the five largest wheat producing countries
237 have a combined total >50% of total global wheat production ²³, the similarity in method
238 estimates of temperature impacts for these countries also dominates the similar negative
239 temperature impacts computed at the global scale.

240 **Differences in model inputs**

241 At the location scale, the yields from the point-based simulations were highly correlated
242 to the yields from the grid-based simulations for the baseline and baseline+1°C periods ($P <$
243 0.001 , $R^2 > 0.5$; Table S2), but simulated yields were generally higher in point-based than in
244 grid-based simulations (Fig. 4 and Fig. S1). The average yields of the 30 locations in the
245 point-based simulations were 3.2 (82%) and 3.0 (82%) t.ha⁻¹ higher than in the corresponding
246 grid-based simulations under baseline and baseline + 1°C conditions, respectively. In both
247 studies, mean temperatures were similar across sites for the 90 days period prior to maturity,
248 except for three locations (Fig. S2). Seasonal temperature variability in the model input data
249 differed slightly between methods and caused a larger seasonal yield variability in the
250 grid-based simulations compared to the point-based simulations (Fig S7). Solar radiation
251 inputs were 5% to 7% lower in the grid-based than in the point-based simulations (Fig. S3),
252 which might have contributed slightly to the simulated yield difference ²⁴. Water stress was
253 not considered in either study for the comparison of these 30 locations and any possible
254 differences in precipitation inputs had no impact on the simulated results (Table S3). No
255 nitrogen stress was assumed in the point-based simulations, but four of the seven crop
256 models in the grid-based simulations did consider country-level average N fertilizer
257 application which could explain why the grid-based model ensemble simulated generally

258 lower yields compared to the point-based simulations (Table S3).

259 Another important factor possibly contributing to yield differences between the
260 grid-based and point-based simulation at the local scale were the models used in the studies.
261 There were 29 crop models and one statistical regression in the point-based simulation
262 ensemble, whereas there were seven crop models in the grid-based simulations. Three models
263 (CERES, EPIC, and LPJmL) were common to both studies. These three models tended to
264 simulate lower yields than the 30-model ensemble average from the point-based study for the
265 30 locations, e.g., about $0.9 \text{ t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ less in the baseline period (Fig. S4). This may have lowered
266 the average simulated yields in grid-based simulations. Differences in the calibration of the
267 crop models would also affect simulations²⁵. Some models in the grid-based simulations were
268 calibrated and some were not, and especially growing periods were not harmonized across
269 grid-based models⁹, while in point-based simulations all models were calibrated for anthesis
270 and maturity dates with local phenology information⁸. Hence, differences in models, solar
271 radiation and inputs like N fertilizer may explain some of the lower yields found in the
272 grid-based studies. Differences in cultivar calibration, particularly for phenology and growing
273 season, adds another source of differences between these two studies.

274 **More yield reduction at warmer regions**

275 Interestingly, when comparing the grid-based and point-based simulations, no obvious
276 bias was observed in the simulated relative yield impacts between point-based and grid-based
277 simulations (Fig. 4c and Fig.S1c), even though simulated absolute yields with point-based
278 simulations were much higher than grid-based simulations. This was still true when the
279 outlier location in Fig. 4c was removed from calculations. Temperature impacts at the local

280 scale in grid-based and point-based simulations were highly correlated. With 1°C global
281 temperature increase, higher yield reductions were observed at locations with higher baseline
282 temperatures than locations with lower baseline temperatures in both point-based and
283 grid-based simulations (Fig. 4c). For example, at Aswan in Egypt, point-based and grid-based
284 simulations showed about 11% and 20% decline in yield with 1°C temperature increase, while
285 for Krasnodar in Russia, point-based and grid-based simulations estimated about 4% and 7%
286 yield decline with 1°C global increase. The spatial pattern of temperature impacts at the
287 location scale was also consistent with that at the country scale (Fig. 2a, Fig. 2b, and Fig.S11),
288 which indicated that warmer regions (e.g. India) are likely to suffer more wheat yield
289 reductions than cooler regions (e.g. China). The exception is for statistical regression
290 estimates for Russia, a generally cooler region (Fig. 2b). The effects of temperature on wheat
291 yields are consistent with reports of impacts on other crops, such as maize, soybean, and
292 cotton^{26, 27, 28}. An increase in extreme temperature events with increasing mean temperatures²⁹
293 are likely to further contribute to yield decline in wheat^{30, 31}. Several crop models used in
294 point-based simulations (tested against warming experiments) and Regression_A (using a
295 nonlinear regression method), also considered the impacts of extreme temperature^{8, 10}.

296 **Effects of up-scaling methods**

297 To assess climate impacts on global or country-level crop production, both process-based
298 crop modeling approaches and statistical regressions need to be upscaled from locations to
299 regions and then to the entire globe³². In the point-based simulations, a range of local
300 information (e.g. local sowing dates, cultivar, anthesis and maturity date) was used for the 30
301 locations selected to represent about 70% of current global wheat production, which was then

302 upscaled via FAO statistics ⁸. Much less local information was available for each of the 0.5° ×
303 0.5° grid cells which were aggregated to country and global scales in the grid-based
304 simulations ⁹. However, very similar estimated temperature impacts on relative global yield
305 changes were simulated with both approaches. This was surprising as Ewert, van Bussel ¹⁴
306 showed that scaling methods can add significant uncertainties to simulated outcomes.
307 Although uncertainties are known to be reduced with multi-model ensembles, these results
308 might also indicate that the selected 30 locations in the point-based study ⁸ were indeed
309 representative of agro-climatic variability of wheat growing conditions throughout the world.
310 The results also suggest that global grid-based models, despite having limited local
311 information, are on a par with point-based approaches, while providing greater coverage of
312 regional heterogeneity.

313 In the statistical regression methods, yield and weather data from different scales were
314 used to obtain global and country-level temperature impacts. For example, both global ¹¹ and
315 country ¹⁰ level regressions, observed yield records were used to conduct global assessments,
316 and both country-level yields and county (or similar) level yields were used for country
317 assessments (e.g. for China, India, and USA). Generally, regressions with different spatial
318 scales resulted in similar temperature impacts on yields.

319 **Advantage of different assessment methods**

320 Compared with process-based crop models, statistical regressions are simpler and require
321 less input information. However, other important growth factors which change with climate
322 change, such as radiation or the combined effects of heat, water and nutrient stresses, vary
323 over the period of a crop growing cycle, but are often not directly considered in statistical

324 regressions. Some of these factors might also be confounded in a statistical regression
325 analysis. While there have been attempts to include more factors in statistical impact methods
326 ³³, detailed process-based, dynamic crop simulation models may be more suitable to simulate
327 the more complex climate change scenarios, beyond the single impact of temperature change.
328 However, process-based models, like statistical methods, often do not account for many other
329 important factors required for holistic climate change impact assessment. Such factors include
330 impacts from frost, pests, weeds, diseases, and floods, and also dissimilar impacts between
331 day and night temperatures ³⁴, or extreme temperature events at different growth stages,
332 which are all likely to change with future climates. However, process-based models are
333 capable of accounting for the effects of elevated CO₂ ³⁵, even though this effect is not
334 considered here, but large uncertainties exist not only with respect to the general effects on
335 crop yields ^{36,37} but also with respect to model implementation ^{9,38}.

336 Field or environment-controlled experiments are independent ways to estimate
337 temperature impacts on wheat yields^{8,16}. For example, 2% to 8% reductions in wheat yield for
338 every 1°C increase of post-anthesis temperature above an optimum season-average
339 temperature of 15°C (i.e. local temperature) have been measured for a range of cultivars under
340 controlled ³⁹ and field experiments ⁴⁰. Considerable variations of wheat yield impacts with
341 increasing temperature have been found in a 4-growing season warming experiments ⁴¹.
342 However, while measured temperature impacts on yields can guide other impact estimation
343 methods, they are often specific to a particular location, cultivar, crop management or
344 experimental treatment and are not representative of a larger region, which makes it difficult
345 to extrapolate such measurements to regional or global impacts.

346 **Applying multi-method ensembles**

347 Understanding and quantifying uncertainty of impact assessments has been a key aspect
348 in assessing climate impacts on crop production in recent studies^{25, 42, 43}. Most previous studies
349 have focused on uncertainties arising from crop models or climate models²⁵. Here the
350 uncertainties in both point-based and grid-based simulations were quantified by multi-model
351 ensembles. Uncertainties due to crop models, expressed as error bars in the grid-based
352 simulations, were relatively large at both global and country scales (Fig. 1 & Fig. 3), which
353 was due to the limited number of models and relatively wide spread of model results in this
354 study. The differences in model inputs (e.g. nitrogen application, sowing dates, cultivars),
355 calibration methods and model⁹ explain some of the variability between the point and
356 grid-based simulations. Many crop models do not simulate temperature interactions with
357 canopy temperature variation under different soil water conditions, which could result in
358 simulated differences of temperature impacts⁸. However, multi-model ensemble medians
359 have been shown to be more consistently accurate than individual models when comparing
360 measurements across locations and growing environments, adding confidence to the estimates
361 here⁴⁴. Bootstrap resampling methods were employed to estimate the uncertainty of
362 temperature impacts calculated in the two global scale statistical regressions. Thus different
363 assessment approaches have independent methods of quantifying uncertainty. Multi-method
364 ensembles can enable the quantification of method uncertainty, similar to how multi-model
365 ensembles enable estimation of model uncertainty. The uncertainty range of wheat yield
366 reduction with 1°C global temperature increase from the multi-method ensemble calculated
367 from the median of the four methods analyzed here was between 4.0% and 6.9% at the global

368 scale (95% confidence interval). While this absolute difference is still substantial, this is
369 narrower than the uncertainty due to the models in the multi-model ensembles from the
370 simulations or the boot-strapping method in the statistical regressions. Therefore, applying
371 multi-method ensembles can improve reliability of the assessment of climate impacts on
372 global food security.

373 However, the consistency of negative global yield impacts of increasing temperature
374 quantified here at global level should not be applied to local or regional scale. As previous
375 studies have found, there were considerable large variations of increasing temperature
376 impacts on wheat yields at local and regional scale^{8, 45}, and the spatial variation of temperature
377 impacts has also been observed in the two modeling approaches here among different
378 locations.

379 Adaptation to global warming, e.g. farmer's autonomous adaptation through changing
380 sowing dates or cultivars, has been suggested in several studies to compensate negative
381 impacts of increasing temperature⁴⁶. At global scale, point-based simulations did not consider
382 adaptation. Also a panel regression approach attempted to exclude adaptations¹⁰. In the
383 grid-based simulations, four of the seven models did allow cultivar and sowing date
384 adaptation with a changing climate (Table S3), and the simulated impacts tended to be lower
385 with simulated adaptation (Fig.S10). However, temperature impacts from models with
386 adaptation varied largely. Temperature impacts with and without adaptation were estimated
387 from different models in grid-based simulations, which added considerable uncertainty in the
388 results. The adaptation effects on temperature impacts should be further studied with more
389 consistent protocols for multi-model assessments. Other future adaptation, e.g. wheat

390 cultivation shifting to marginal regions in higher latitudes, could offset some of the negative
391 impacts.

392 Assessing climate change impacts on crop production is a key aspect in determining
393 appropriate global food security strategies⁴². Reliable estimates of climate change impacts on
394 food security require an integrated use of climate, crop, and economic models¹⁵. Applying
395 multi-method ensembles further improves the estimated impact precision and confidence in
396 assessments of climate impacts on global food security. The consistent negative impact from
397 increasing temperatures confirmed by three independent methods warrants critical needed
398 investment in climate change adaptation strategies to counteract the adverse effects of rising
399 temperatures on global wheat production, including genetic improvement and management
400 adjustments^{47, 48}. However, some or all of the negative global warming impacts on wheat
401 yield might be compensated by increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations under full
402 irrigation and fertilization²⁵.

403

404 **Corresponding author**

405 Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Y.Z.

406 **Yan Zhu**

407 **Tel:** +86-25-84396598

408 **Fax:** +86-25-84396672

409 **E-mail:** yanzhu@njau.edu.cn

410 **Address:** No.1 Weigang Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210095, P. R. China

411

412 **Acknowledgements**

413 This work was supported by the National High-Tech Research and Development
414 Program of China (2013AA100404), the National Natural Science Foundation of China
415 (31271616, 41571088 and 31561143003), the National Research Foundation for the Doctoral
416 Program of Higher Education of China (20120097110042), the Priority Academic Program
417 Development of Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions (PAPD), and the China Scholarship
418 Council. We would like to acknowledge support provided by IFPRI through the Global
419 Futures and Strategic Foresight project, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change,
420 Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), the CGIAR Research Program on Wheat and the
421 Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP).

422

423 **Author contributions**

424 B.L., S.A., C.M., F.E., J.E., D.B.L., P.M., A.C.R., D.W., J.W.J., C.R. and Y.Z. motivated
425 the study, S.A. coordinated the study, B.L. S.A., C.M., F.E., J.E., D.B.L., P.M., A.C.R., and
426 D.W. analyzed data, P.K.A., P.D.A., J.A., B.B., C.B., D.C., A.J.C., D.D., G.D.S., J.D., E.F.,
427 C.F., M.G-V., S.G., G.H., L.A.H., R.C.I., M.J., C.D.J., K.C.K., A-K.K., C.M., S.N.K., C.N.,
428 G.O'L., J.E.O., T.P., E.P., T.A.M.P., E.E.R., R.R.P., E.S., M.A.S., I.S., E.S., C.O.S., P.S.,
429 T.S., I.S., F.T., P.J.T., K.W., E.W., J.W., Z.Z. and Y.Z. carried out crop model simulations
430 and discussed the results, C.M., J.E., B.A.K., M.J.O., G.W.W., J.W.W., M.P.R., P.D.A.,
431 P.V.V.P. and A.C.R. provided experimental data, B.L., S.A., C.M., F.E., J.E., D.B.L., P.M.,
432 A.C.R., D.W., J.W.J., C.R. and Y.Z. wrote the paper. All other authors gave comments on the
433 earlier version of this manuscript.

434

435 **Competing financial interests**

436 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

437

438 **References**

- 439 1. Alexandratos N, Bruinsma J. World agriculture towards 2030/2050: the 2012 revision. Rome:
440 FAO; 2012. Report No.: 12-03.
441
- 442 2. Rosenzweig C, Parry ML. Potential impact of climate change on world food supply. *Nature*
443 1994, **367**(6459): 133-138.
444
- 445 3. Challinor AJ, Watson J, Lobell DB, Howden SM, Smith DR, Chhetri N. A meta-analysis of
446 crop yield under climate change and adaptation. *Nature Climate Change* 2014, **4**(4): 287-291.
447
- 448 4. Ewert F, Rötter RP, Bindi M, Webber H, Trnka M, Kersebaum KC, *et al.* Crop modelling for
449 integrated assessment of risk to food production from climate change. *Environ Model*
450 *Software* 2015, **72**: 287-303.
451
- 452 5. Lv ZF, Liu XJ, Cao WX, Zhu Y. Climate change impacts on regional winter wheat production
453 in main wheat production regions of China. *Agr Forest Meteorol* 2013, **171**: 234-248.
454
- 455 6. Kumar SN, Aggarwal P, Rani D, Saxena R, Chauhan N, Jain S. Vulnerability of wheat
456 production to climate change in India. *Climate Research* 2014, **59**(3): 173-187.
457
- 458 7. Thornton PK, Jones PG, Ericksen PJ, Challinor AJ. Agriculture and food systems in
459 sub-Saharan Africa in a 4 C+ world. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of*
460 *London A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences* 2011, **369**(1934): 117-136.
461
- 462 8. Asseng S, Ewert F, Martre P, Rötter R, Lobell D, Cammarano D, *et al.* Rising temperatures
463 reduce global wheat production. *Nature Climate Change* 2015, **5**: 143-147.
464
- 465 9. Rosenzweig C, Elliott J, Deryng D, Ruane AC, Müller C, Arneth A, *et al.* Assessing
466 agricultural risks of climate change in the 21st century in a global gridded crop model
467 intercomparison. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2014, **111**(9): 3268-3273.
468
- 469 10. Lobell DB, Schlenker W, Costa-Roberts J. Climate trends and global crop production since
470 1980. *Science* 2011, **333**(6042): 616-620.
471
- 472 11. Lobell DB, Field CB. Global scale climate-crop yield relationships and the impacts of recent
473 warming. *Environmental Research Letters* 2007, **2**: 1-7.
474

- 475 12. Kristensen K, Schelde K, Olesen JE. Winter wheat yield response to climate variability in
476 Denmark. *The Journal of Agricultural Science* 2011, **149**(01): 33-47.
477
- 478 13. Wing IS, Monier E, Stern A, Mundra A. US major crops' uncertain climate change risks and
479 greenhouse gas mitigation benefits. *Environmental Research Letters* 2015, **10**(11): 115002.
480
- 481 14. Ewert F, van Bussel L, Zhao G, Hoffmann H, Gaiser T. Uncertainties in Scaling Up Crop
482 Models for Large Area Climate Change Impact Assessments. *Handbook of Climate Change
483 and Agroecosystems*. Imperial College Press: London, UK, 2015, pp 261-277.
484
- 485 15. Rosenzweig C, Jones JW, Hatfield JL, Ruane AC, Boote KJ, Thorburne P, *et al.* The
486 Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP): Protocols and pilot
487 studies. *Agr Forest Meteorol* 2013, **170**: 166-182.
488
- 489 16. Wilcox J, Makowski D. A meta-analysis of the predicted effects of climate change on wheat
490 yields using simulation studies. *Field Crop Res* 2014, **156**: 180-190.
491
- 492 17. Collins M, Knutti R, Arblaster J, Dufresne J-L, Fichet T, Friedlingstein P, *et al.* *Long-term
493 climate change: projections, commitments and irreversibility*. Cambridge University Press:
494 Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 2013.
495
- 496 18. Fischer RA, Byerlee D, Edmeades GO. Crop yields and global food security: will yield
497 increase continue to feed the world? Canberra: Australian Centre for International Agricultural
498 Research; 2014.
499
- 500 19. Licker R, Kucharik CJ, Doré T, Lindeman MJ, Makowski D. Climatic impacts on winter
501 wheat yields in Picardy, France and Rostov, Russia: 1973–2010. *Agr Forest Meteorol* 2013,
502 **176**: 25-37.
503
- 504 20. Tack J, Barkley A, Nalley LL. Effect of warming temperatures on US wheat yields. *Proc Natl
505 Acad Sci U S A* 2015, **112**(22): 6931-6936.
506
- 507 21. Gallais A, Gate P, Oury F-X. Évolution des rendements de plusieurs plantes de grande culture
508 une réaction différente au réchauffement climatique selon les espèces. *Comptes rendus de
509 l'Académie d'agriculture de France* 2010, **96**(3): 4-16.
510
- 511 22. Pirttioja N, Carter TR, Fronzek S, Bindi M, Hoffmann H, Palosuo T, *et al.* Temperature and
512 precipitation effects on wheat yield across a European transect: a crop model ensemble
513 analysis using impact response surfaces. *Climate Research* 2015, **65**: 87-105.
514
- 515 23. FAO. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. <http://faostat.fao.org> (last
516 visited: 03.26.2013), 2011.
517
- 518 24. Li H, Jiang D, Wollenweber B, Dai T, Cao W. Effects of shading on morphology, physiology

- 519 and grain yield of winter wheat. *Eur J Agron* 2010, **33**(4): 267-275.
- 520
- 521 25. Asseng S, Ewert F, Rosenzweig C, Jones JW, Hatfield JL, Ruane AC, *et al.* Uncertainty in
522 simulating wheat yields under climate change. *Nature Climate Change* 2013, **3**(9): 827-832.
- 523
- 524 26. Schlenker W, Roberts MJ. Nonlinear temperature effects indicate severe damages to U.S. crop
525 yields under climate change. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2009, **106**(37):
526 15594-15598.
- 527
- 528 27. Lobell DB, Bänziger M, Magorokosho C, Vivek B. Nonlinear heat effects on African maize
529 as evidenced by historical yield trials. *Nature Climate Change* 2011, **1**(1): 42-45.
- 530
- 531 28. Bassu S, Brisson N, Durand J-L, Boote K, Lizaso J, Jones JW, *et al.* How do various maize
532 crop models vary in their responses to climate change factors? *Global Change Biology* 2014,
533 **20**(7): 2301-2320.
- 534
- 535 29. Battisti DS, Naylor RL. Historical warnings of future food insecurity with unprecedented
536 seasonal heat. *Science* 2009, **323**(5911): 240-244.
- 537
- 538 30. Lobell DB, Sibley A, Ortiz-Monasterio JI. Extreme heat effects on wheat senescence in India.
539 *Nature Climate Change* 2012, **2**(3): 186-189.
- 540
- 541 31. Asseng S, Foster I, Turner NC. The impact of temperature variability on wheat yields. *Global*
542 *Change Biology* 2011, **17**(2): 997-1012.
- 543
- 544 32. Ewert F, van Ittersum M, Heckelei T, Therond O, Bezlepkina I, Andersen E. Scale changes
545 and model linking methods for integrated assessment of agri-environmental systems.
546 *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 2011, **142**(1): 6-17.
- 547
- 548 33. Urban DW, Sheffield J, Lobell DB. The impacts of future climate and carbon dioxide changes
549 on the average and variability of US maize yields under two emission scenarios.
550 *Environmental Research Letters* 2015, **10**(4): 045003.
- 551
- 552 34. Lobell DB, Ortiz-Monasterio JI, Asner GP, Matson PA, Naylor RL, Falcon WP. Analysis of
553 wheat yield and climatic trends in Mexico. *Field Crop Res* 2005, **94**(2): 250-256.
- 554
- 555 35. O'Leary GJ, Christy B, Nuttall J, Huth N, Cammarano D, Stockle C, *et al.* Response of wheat
556 growth, grain yield and water use to elevated CO₂ under a Free-Air CO₂ Enrichment (FACE)
557 experiment and modelling in a semi-arid environment. *Global Change Biology* 2015, **21**(7):
558 2670-2686.
- 559
- 560 36. Schimel D, Stephens BB, Fisher JB. Effect of increasing CO₂ on the terrestrial carbon cycle.
561 *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2015, **112**(2): 436-441.
- 562

- 563 37. Ainsworth EA, Leakey AD, Ort DR, Long SP. FACE - ing the facts: inconsistencies and
564 interdependence among field, chamber and modeling studies of elevated [CO₂] impacts on
565 crop yield and food supply. *New Phytologist* 2008, **179**(1): 5-9.
566
- 567 38. Deryng D, Elliott J, Folberth C, Muller C, Pugh TAM, Boote KJ, *et al.* Regional disparities in
568 the beneficial effects of rising CO₂ concentrations on crop water productivity. *Nature Clim*
569 *Change* 2016, **advance online publication**.
570
- 571 39. Wardlaw I, Dawson I, Munibi P, Fewster R. The tolerance of wheat to high temperatures
572 during reproductive growth. I. Survey procedures and general response patterns. *Crop and*
573 *Pasture Science* 1989, **40**(1): 1-13.
574
- 575 40. Wardlaw I, Wrigley C. Heat tolerance in temperate cereals: an overview. *Functional Plant*
576 *Biology* 1994, **21**(6): 695-703.
577
- 578 41. Batts G, Morison J, Ellis R, Hadley P, Wheeler T. Effects of CO₂ and temperature on growth
579 and yield of crops of winter wheat over four seasons. *Eur J Agron* 1997, **7**(1-3): 43-52.
580
- 581 42. Godfray HCJ, Beddington JR, Crute IR, Haddad L, Lawrence D, Muir JF, *et al.* Food security:
582 the challenge of feeding 9 billion people. *science* 2010, **327**(5967): 812-818.
583
- 584 43. Wallach D, Mearns LO, Rivington M, Antle JM, Ruane AC. Uncertainty in Agricultural
585 Impact Assessment. *Handbook of Climate Change and Agroecosystems*. Imperial College
586 Press, 2015, pp 223-259.
587
- 588 44. Martre P, Wallach D, Asseng S, Ewert F, Jones JW, Rotter RP, *et al.* Multimodel ensembles
589 of wheat growth: many models are better than one. *Global Change Biology* 2015, **21**(2):
590 911-925.
591
- 592 45. Xiong W, Holman IP, You L, Yang J, Wu W. Impacts of observed growing-season warming
593 trends since 1980 on crop yields in China. *Regional environmental change* 2014, **14**(1): 7-16.
594
- 595 46. Butler EE, Huybers P. Adaptation of US maize to temperature variations. *Nature Climate*
596 *Change* 2013, **3**: 68-72.
597
- 598 47. Cossani CM, Reynolds MP. Physiological traits for improving heat tolerance in wheat. *Plant*
599 *physiology* 2012, **160**(4): 1710-1718.
600
- 601 48. Zheng B, Chenu K, Fernanda Dreccer M, Chapman SC. Breeding for the future: what are the
602 potential impacts of future frost and heat events on sowing and flowering time requirements
603 for Australian bread wheat (*Triticum aestivium*) varieties? *Global Change Biology* 2012, **18**(9):
604 2899-2914.
605
- 606 49. Hempel S, Frieler K, Warszawski L, Schewe J, Piontek F. A trend-preserving bias correction–

- 607 the ISI-MIP approach. *Earth System Dynamics* 2013, **4**(2): 219-236.
- 608
- 609 50. Portmann FT, Siebert S, Döll P. MIRCA2000—Global monthly irrigated and rainfed crop
610 areas around the year 2000: A new high - resolution data set for agricultural and hydrological
611 modeling. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* 2010, **24**(1).
- 612
- 613 51. Zhang T, Huang Y. Estimating the impacts of warming trends on wheat and maize in China
614 from 1980 to 2008 based on county level data. *International Journal of Climatology* 2013,
615 **33**(3): 699-708.
- 616
- 617
- 618

619 **Figure legends**

620 **Figure 1 | Impacts of 1°C global temperature increase on global wheat yield**

621 **estimated by different assessment methods.** The grid-based ($0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid cells)
622 method is an ensemble median from seven global gridded crop models, averaged over
623 30 years and aggregated over all simulated grid cells (after Ref. 9). The point-based
624 method is an ensemble median from 30 models, averaged over 30 years and
625 aggregated over 30 global locations (after Ref. 8). Regression_A is based on a
626 country-level statistical regression from Ref. 10. Regression_B is based on a global
627 level statistical regression from Ref. 11. The error bars for four different methods
628 indicate the 95% confidence intervals based on multi-model ensembles in the
629 simulations and bootstrap resampling in the statistical regressions. The mean of the
630 method_ensemble is shown with error bar indicating the 95% confidence intervals
631 based on medians of individual methods.

632

633 **Figure 2 | Comparison of wheat yield changes with 1°C global temperature**

634 **increase for 97 wheat producing countries estimated using three different**

635 **methods.** (a) Median simulations of a grid-based ($0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$) ensemble of seven
636 models (after Ref. 9) versus a point-based (30 locations over 30 years) ensemble of 30
637 models (after Ref. 8). (b) Country level statistical regression for China, India, USA,
638 France and Russia, the top five wheat producing countries, from Ref. 10 versus
639 point-based simulations for these countries (after Ref. 8). Note, only data on these five
640 countries were supplied in Ref. 10. Circle color indicates the wheat growing season

641 temperature (from Ref. 10). Circle size indicates the amount of wheat production for
642 each country according to FAO statistics²³. The solid line is the 1:1 line and dashed
643 lines represent 0% yield change.

644

645 **Figure 3 | Estimated impacts of 1°C global temperature increase on wheat yield**

646 (a) China, (b) India, (c) Russia, (d) USA, and (e) France using different assessment

647 methods. The grid-based ($0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$) method produced an ensemble median from

648 seven global gridded crop models (after Ref. 9). The point-based method produced an

649 ensemble median from 30 models from 1 to 3 country locations (after Ref. 8).

650 Regression_A is a statistical regression based on country statistics after Ref. 10.

651 Regression_C is a statistical regression based on $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid statistics after Ref.

652 45. Regression_D is county level statistical regressions produced by two different

653 regression methods from Ref. 50. Regression_E is a county level regression produced

654 for this study. The error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval based on

655 multi-models for the simulations and bootstrap resampling (Regression_A,

656 Regression_B, and Regression_D) or t-tests (Regression_E) for the statistical

657 regressions. No error bar was provided for Regression_C in Ref. 45.

658

659 **Figure 4 | Comparison of simulated multi-model median wheat yield and yield**

660 **changes.** Absolute wheat yields for (a) baseline and (b) baseline + 1°C periods, and (c)

661 relative yield change with 1°C global temperature increase from grid-based

662 simulations ($0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$) (from Ref. 9) of cells centered around the 30 locations from

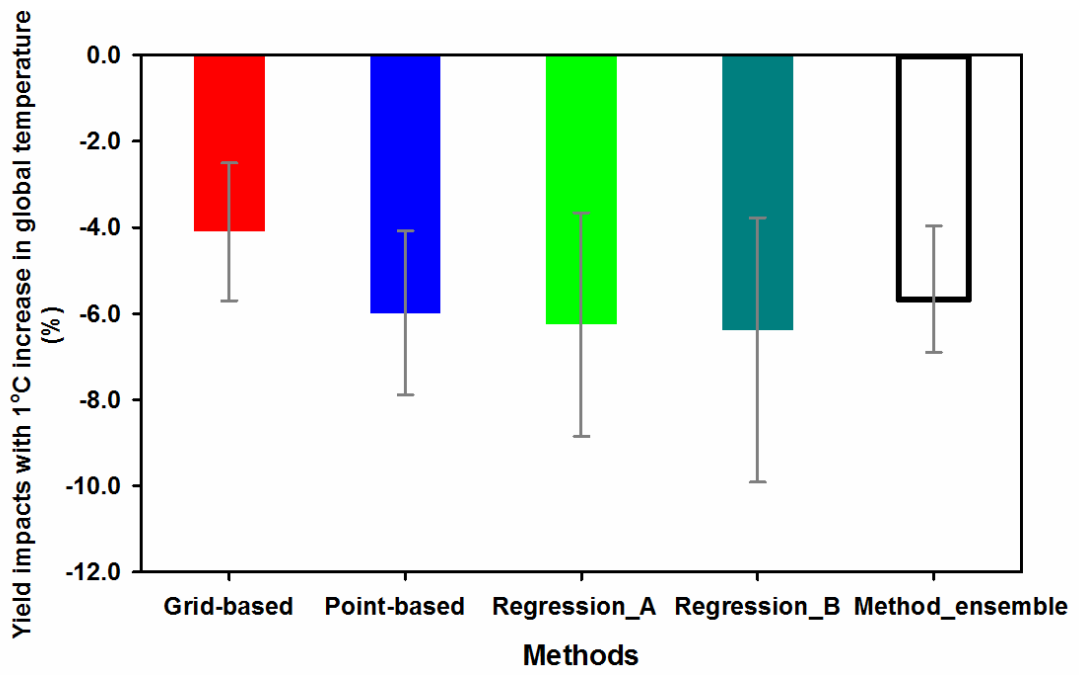
663 the point-based study versus that from the point-based simulations (from Ref. 8). Note

664 in (c), regression line is drawn without outlier (location in Sudan).

665

666

667 **Figure 1.**

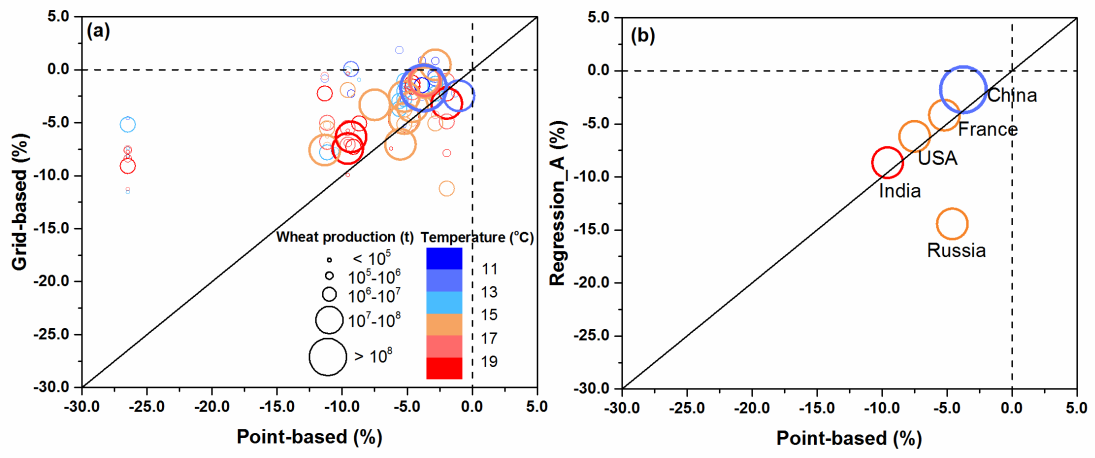


668

669

670

671 **Figure 2.**

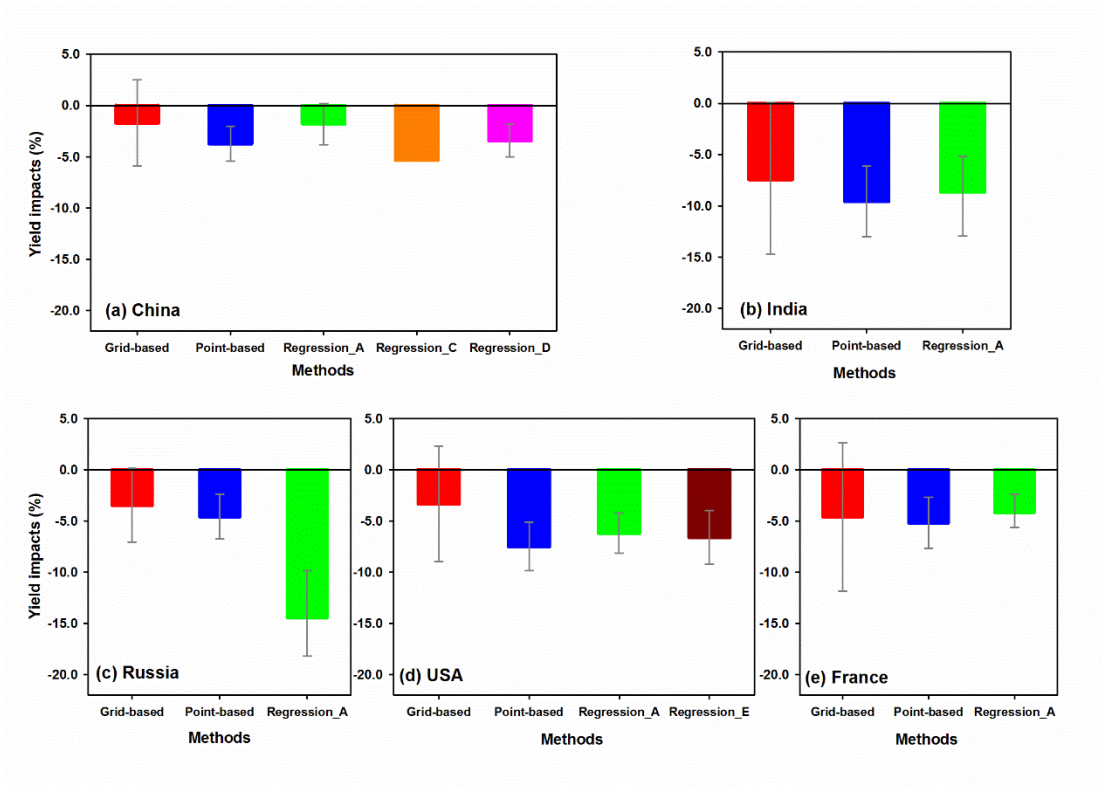


672

673

674

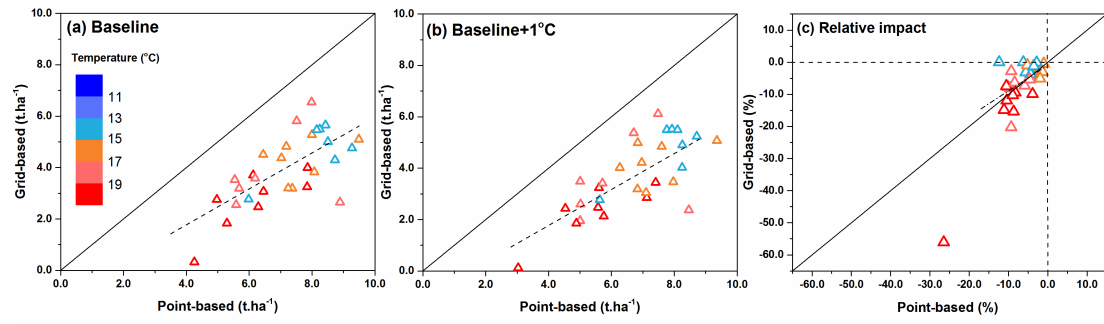
675 **Figure 3.**



676

677

678 **Figure 4.**



679

680

681 **Methods**

682 *Grid-based simulations.* Seven global gridded models simulated $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid cells across
683 all wheat growing regions of the world from 1980 to 2099 under a RCP8.5 scenario with a
684 statistically-downscaled version of HadGEM2-ES ⁴⁹, with only a small trend in solar radiation
685 at some locations (Fig. S6). Here, a set of simulation experiments without effects of elevated
686 CO₂ and under full irrigation treatments were used. Among the seven global gridded models,
687 adaptation through cultivars, sowing dates or growing season had been employed in four of
688 the models (Table S3). The global yield impacts from models with and without adaptation are
689 compared in Fig. S10. Only one climate model and RCP were used as there was limited data
690 available for grid-based simulations. The period 2029-2058 was selected as being on average
691 2°C warmer globally than the baseline period of 1981-2010 and the impact was halved to
692 adjust the temperature change to +1°C for the analysis here. The temperature change
693 considered here is 1°C warming of the global mean temperature, including land and ocean
694 surface. The change in simulated grain yields between these two temperature periods was
695 used to estimate temperature impacts on wheat at global and national scales. Grid-based
696 simulations for the direct comparison to point-based simulations were extracted from
697 simulations assuming full irrigation. For national and global scale results, grid-based
698 simulations were aggregated by area-weighted means, using rain-fed and irrigated wheat
699 areas per pixel of MIRCA2000 ⁵⁰ combining simulations under irrigated and rain-fed
700 conditions. To make projections between the different grid-based models comparable, yield
701 simulations were bias-corrected to national FAO levels by using FAO mean yields and
702 superimposing projected relative changes. More details about the grid-based simulations can

703 be found in Ref. 9.

704 *Point-based simulations.* Thirty models, 29 crop simulation models and one statistical
705 regression model, were used to simulate wheat grain yields for 30 representative locations in
706 high rainfall and irrigated wheat growing regions around the world (together representing
707 about 70% of global wheat production) with the estimated baseline period of 1981-2010 and
708 baseline + 2°C. Three models (CERES, EPIC, and LPJmL) in point-based simulations were
709 used in grid-based simulations. No CO₂ fertilization effects or any adaptation was considered
710 in the point-based simulations. The impact was halved to adjust the temperature change to
711 +1°C for the analysis here. Local temperature impacts on yields were adjusted to global
712 temperature change and upscaled via FAO statistics. Temperature impacts on national scales
713 were assessed for 125 countries. Each country was assigned as being similar to one or more
714 representative locations, so the temperature impacts of each country were the average impacts
715 of the corresponding representative locations. More details can be found in Ref. 8.

716 *Statistical regressions.* All estimated temperature impacts from statistical regressions were
717 from literature reports^{10, 11, 45, 51}, except for one new statistical regression analysis for the USA
718 that we present here (Supplementary Methods). All temperature impacts were adjusted to
719 global temperature change following the approach by Ref. 8. Details of these regression
720 studies and impacts adjustments are summarized in Table S1.

721 *Meta-analysis and experimental data.* Meta-analysis and experimental data from the literature
722 are cited here for further comparison after adjusting them to global temperature change where
723 possible. Meta-analysis and experimental data from the literature were cited here for further
724 comparison after adjusting them to global temperature change. An adjustment factor to global

725 temperature used for the statistical regressions was also used here. The temperature factors
726 are listed in Table S1.

727 *Comparison at a national scale.* Temperature impacts for 97 countries from both grid-based
728 and point-based simulations were compared. Due to the limited number of country-scale
729 estimates of temperature impacts on wheat yields with statistical regression analysis, we
730 compared the regression results with the two simulation approaches for the top five wheat
731 producing countries (Table S1).

732 *Comparison at local scales.* Yield simulations from 30 single grid cells from the grid-based
733 method were chosen that were centered around the 30 global representative locations from the
734 point-based method. Full irrigation treatments were applied in point-based and grid-based
735 simulations. The baseline and increased temperature periods for the 30 grid cells were
736 determined individually by matching the 30-year average annual temperature of each grid to
737 the 30-year average annual temperature of the corresponding location from point-based
738 simulations. The baseline and increased temperature periods for each of the 30 grid cells and
739 temperature differences between the two methods are shown in Table S4. Most locations had
740 very similar temperature input data in the two comparison periods for grid-based and
741 point-based simulations. Outliers (Table S4) were found where the input data differed
742 substantially but these did not cause outliers in yield impacts. The yield impact outlier at the
743 Sudan location was caused by very low simulated yields (Fig. 4). The simulated yields for
744 baseline and increased temperature periods were used to calculate temperature impacts at the
745 local scale. These were also adjusted to global temperature change with the same method at
746 global and national scales. The temperature and radiation data from the critical growing

747 period of wheat from 90 days before maturity to maturity were compared. Maturity dates

748 were the dates supplied from observations for each location in the point-based method ⁸.

749

750